



Seed Saving Workshop

What is Seed saving?

seed saving is the practice of saving seeds or other reproductive material (e.g. tubers) from open-pollinated vegetables, grain, herbs, and flowers for use from year to year. This is the traditional way farms and gardens were maintained.

Why Seed Save?

- Easy to do
- Doesn't require a lot of equipment.
- Have your own varieties, evolved to your own micro climate. (brought seeds can be unsuitable)
- Greater range
- Save money.
- Save old varieties
- Breed some new varieties
- Many seeds are not sold but swapped.

Pollination:

Pollen from male part transferred to Female part of the flower to make a fertile seed.

pollination occurs via wind, water, insects, birds, and people.

Types of pollination:

Self Pollination: Occur across the same flower. example are Tomatoes and lettuce.

Cross Pollination: Occurs across different flowers on the same plant. Example are Eggplant, Cucumber, Corn, Watermelon. Or across separate flowers on different plants e.g., Carrots, Parsley.

Hand Pollination: When people help with pollination.



Types of seeds

open-pollinated

When heirloom gardeners refer to open-pollination, they mean that a particular cultivar can be grown from seed and will come back "true to type."

Heirloom & Heritage:

The term heirloom seeds refers to any of a variety of seeds that come from plants that were grown historically but have not been used in modern agriculture on a large scale.

Hybrid.

Hybrid plants are artificially cross-pollinated, and bred to favour desirable characteristics, like higher yield (in monocultures) and more uniform size to accommodate mechanized harvesting. However, the seed produced by the second generation (F2) of the hybrid does not reliably produce a true copy of that hybrid (it 'segregates') and often loses much of its yield potential.

What type of plant to save?

Always keep the best plant for seeds, rather than harvest.
Look for a healthy plant, without diseases.

For Fruiting veggies pick when ripe. While pick Pods when mature.

Look for desirable traits:

- early fruiting?
- drought tolerant?
- heavy yielding?
- Taste
- Color

Seed Saving techniques:

Dry Seedcoats (Lettuce, Carrots, Cabbage, Broccoli, Rocket, Parsley, etc)

- Cut off stems with attached seed pods.
- Hang up and dry for a couple weeks.
- Once dry, clean seeds and separate the dry seed pods.
- Store in air tight container, cool dry spot.

Dry fruits (Pumpkin, chilli, eggplant etc)

- Remove Seeds from fruit
- Clean seeds
- Place in water, and let settle. Pick the heavy seeds from the bottom.
- Dry off
- Store in air tight container, cool dry spot.



Fruit (Tomato and Cucumber)

- Open Fruit and remove pulp
- Place pulp in the water and stir.
- Settle, and discard any floating seeds
- Wash and Clean.
- Dry
- Store in air tight container, cool dry spot.

Recording Seeds

Family Name
Cultivar Name
Traits
Date

Storing Seeds

Seeds can be keep alive for a long time if stored well.

Ideally seeds will be stored in dry dark environment, with temp 5-20C.

Some suggested containers:

Jars

Plastic containers

Paper bags.

What are some easy Seeds to save.

Basil

Beans

Sage

Nasturtium

Tomato

Lettuce

Fennel

Peas